CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for use with an isolator, comprising:

a crown for releasably joining with a beta port of the isolator, wherein the crown includes at least one anchoring support;

a spring hook on the at least one anchoring support;

a needle block including at least one through hole for having at least one needle positioned therein, wherein the at least one needle is joined with tubing;

a yoke; and

a biasing element releasably joined with the yoke and the at least one anchoring support;

wherein the needle block is releasably joined to the crown.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the crown comprises three anchoring supports.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the yoke comprises slots for having tubing positioned therein.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

5. An aseptic method for transferring a flow path to or from an isolator, comprising:

placing a bag on a beta port of an isolator;

placing a needle connected with tubing in a needle block comprising at least one through hole;

releasably attaching the needle block to a crown;

attaching the crown with the beta port;

attaching a yoke to the crown via a biasing element, wherein the tubing is releasably joined with the yoke;

gripping the needle block with a robot, wherein the robot pulls the needle block out of the bag, putting the biasing element under a tensile force;

performing a bioprocessing operation; and

returning the needle block and tubing to the bag, wherein the robot uses a pushing force to deliver the needle block and tubing to the bag.

6. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the yoke comprises slots.

7. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the crown is joined to an internal surface of the beta port.

8. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the biasing element is a spring.

9. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the biasing element is a coiled tubing.

10. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the needle block comprises a plurality of through holes.

11. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the needle block comprises posts for releasably connecting with holes on the crown.

12. The aseptic method of claim 5, wherein the bioprocessing operation is a fill and finish operation.

13. An aseptic method for transferring a flowpath to or from an isolator using a robot, comprising:

transferring containers to an isolator;

attaching a beta bag to the isolator;

opening a door of the isolator using the robot;

grasping a needle block with the robot, which has needles and tubing placed into the needle block and is connected with a biasing element, forming the flowpath;

positioning the needle block so that the needles are capable of filling the containers;

dispensing a fluid through the flowpath into the the needle block containers;

grasping the needle block with the robot and returning to the beta bag, wherein the biasing element ensures return of the needles and the tubing into the beta bag; and

closing the door with the robot.

14. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein the beta bag is a single use liquid transfer beta bag.

15. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein the fluid is a biological fluid.

16. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein the needle block is re-located onto a crown.

17. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein the biasing element creates a tensioning force during the step of positioning the needles.

18. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein the door is accessed from outside the isolator following the step of closing the door.

19. The aseptic method of claim 13, wherein an apparatus is used, comprising:

a crown for releasably joining with a beta port of the isolator, wherein the crown includes at least one anchoring support;

a spring hook on the at least one anchoring support;

the needle block including at least one through hole for having at least one needle positioned therein, wherein the at least one needle is joined with the tubing;

a yoke; and

the biasing element releasably joined with the yoke and the at least one anchoring support;

wherein the needle block is releasably joined to the crown.